

Our Times-Dispatch

DAILY—WEEKLY—SUNDAY.

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HOW TO CALL TIMES-DISPATCH.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1907.

This life is but a womb wherein we are shaping to be born in the next—Lowell.

Mr. Lynch's Grand Scheme.

The proposal to change our well-matured plans for a high school and erect three such schools in different parts of the city, instead of one great central school, seems to the Times-Dispatch to be most unwise. It is certainly at variance with modern ideas of educational progress. For the past several years, the cry throughout the school districts of Virginia has been concentration. In many instances where there were several inferior schools in a neighborhood they were consolidated into one good school, and in all such cases the good results have been made notable.

Richmond has grammar schools in all parts of the city, and the buildings are conveniently located. But there is no need for more than one high school. To establish and operate three high schools would be to dissipate our means and energies, and to add greatly to the cost. In addition to the buildings, there would be three corps of officers and teachers, a separate equipment for each school and a triple expense all round.

Moreover, what would we do with the land we have acquired and the building plans which have been obtained after so much trouble and cost?

Let us by all means adhere to the original plan and have one first-rate high school instead of three inferior ones. If Richmond has any money to spare, let her give more compensation to her poorly-paid teachers, instead of erecting three new buildings where one is sufficient, and needlessly adding to the number of teachers to be paid.

Train Robbery.

In a sermon delivered in Danville on Sunday last, Bishop W. A. Chandler, of the Methodist Church, is reported to have said that hold-ups on railway trains were to be expected by railroad companies which water their stocks, swindle the public, and kill passengers through carelessness and greed of gold.

He is further reported to have said that the robbers who held up the Seaboard train "did not hurt anybody, but just scared them a little."

That was a most remarkable utterance from the pulpit, and we cannot believe that the elm form of the bishop's sermon does him full justice. We are sure that he did not mean to make the impression that train robbery is a trivial offense. The train robber, like the burglar, is a murderer at heart, for he goes at his work with the determination to commit murder if he is resisted. If not, why does he carry a pistol in his hand?

In many cases these bandits have committed murder, and in the Seaboard hold-up the conductor was shot by the robber. But whether murder be committed or not, the robbing of a train by masked ruffians is a trying ordeal for strong men to pass through, and for women and children, especially in the dead of night, it is terrible. For these reasons the State of Virginia has made train robbery a capital offense.

The man who commits burglary or train robbery in this State runs his head into the halter.

At the Point of the Bayonet.

Mr. Pollard, of the Finance Committee, says that the Passenger and Power Company will do nothing except at the point of the bayonet. But the city has the company at the point of the bayonet, and is in position to drive a hard bargain. We do not believe in the stand-and-deliver policy, but the Passenger and Power Company has made an offer which the city cannot afford to reject.

The city has a water power at the Old Pump-House which will not be utilized for pumping water when the settling basin shall have gone into operation. It then will be necessary, so we are informed, to install additional pumps at the New Pump-House, and if so, electrical power will be needed to operate them. The city now has a contract with the Passenger and Power Company to light the streets for one year. But certain members of the Council think that it would be wise for the city to light the streets on its own account at the expiration of this contract. In order, therefore, to get a supply of electricity to operate the new pumps and to light the streets, it is proposed to erect a municipal electrical plant at the Old Pump-House and use the water power there for generating electricity. It is claimed that the city would save a large sum of money by adopting this plan and generating electricity at its own plant.

But the Passenger and Power Company now comes forward with the following offer:

"The recovers of the Virginia Passenger and Power Company agree to furnish the city of Richmond electric light."

current for municipal lighting and for pumping the water supply, as needed, at a price as low as it could be produced by the city at the proposed municipal electric plant, if the same were established, this cost to be arrived at by a board of three competent and impartial experts, not in any way connected with either party. In this way the city would receive all of the benefits which could be derived from the establishment of its own plant, without making the expenditure, therefore, or in any way increasing the bonded debt for that purpose. This contract would be for any number of years up to ten, which the city might desire, with proper bond for faithful performance of the contract, and subject to the approval of the United States court."

Granted that it is necessary to have new pumps and that it is expedient and economical for the city to light the streets on its own account, how could there be any saving in gathering its own electricity when the Passenger and Power Company offers to sell the city all the current required as cheaply as the city could make it at a plant of its own? Would any business man in Richmond borrow money and install an electrical plant in his own building, if a private corporation would enter into contract to sell to him for a term of years as cheaply as he could make it?

That is the question which the taxpayers of Richmond are asked to consider.

Ugly School Buildings.

The Atlanta Georgian is making war on the "unbeautiful schools" of that city, and in so doing is doing well. "To most children," says our contemporary, "the mere duty of going to school is one of entire sufficient unpleasantness. Having to go to such looking schools as some of the Atlanta horrors is an unkind aggravation of a stern duty. The reverse of this should be true. The duty of going to school should be made as nearly a pleasure as possible."

That is only half the story. Our school-houses may be made thoroughly comfortable, and yet may be entirely devoid of any ornamentation; and too frequently that is the case, even in the best of our schools. The schoolroom should be a place of development, not only of the intellect, but of the taste and the artistic nature of the child. To that end the schoolroom should be thoroughly clean and comfortable, and, in addition, should be adorned, as far as means will permit, with works of art. The Times-Dispatch had that aim in view when it offered famous statuary to the public schools of Richmond and vicinity. Teachers and children took a lively interest in the contest, and it is to be hoped that this will be the beginning of a movement in the interest of school decoration which will not cease until every schoolhouse in Virginia has been adorned.

The Power of Publicity.

A Pittsburgh steel millionaire who recently discarded the wife of his youth, has been devoted in his attentions to a chorus girl, and the morning papers of yesterday gave various columns to interested speculation on the time, place and probability of a wedding. Will it occur in France, where the lady is now residing, a chateau which once housed a Bonaparte?—New York World.

These publications may be disgusting to many good people, and the newspapers are condemned for giving such publicity to a man and woman who are unworthy of public notice. But there is another side to the story. Mr. Corey and Miss Gilman are advertised the world over. The story of their disgrace has been published far and wide, and their pictures have been held up to the public gaze. Wherever they go they are known, and the people turn and look upon them as they pass along. They are in the public eye all the time, and they cannot hide. Wherever they take their walks abroad, they parade their shame, and the finger of scorn is pointed.

It is a terrible punishment, but it is also a terrible warning, and the newspapers are quite willing to shoulder their responsibility. There is no terror to evildoers like publicity.

Overwhelming Prosperity.

According to figures recently sent out from New York, ten years ago our yearly production of coal was 170,000,000 tons, and we thought it a heap. Last year we mined 400,000,000 tons. In 1896 we produced 8,600,000 tons of pig-iron. Last year we produced 25,000,000 tons. Our copper output of ten years ago was 240,000,000 pounds. It is now 900,000,000 pounds. In 1890 we dragged from the bowels of the earth minerals and mineral substances worth about \$35,000,000. The value of our mineral product in 1900 approximates \$2,000,000,000.

When we add to this the abundant harvests and the enormous increase in the volume of our manufactures, it is no wonder that the whole country should be clamoring for capital and that the railroads should be unable to accommodate the traffic that is crowding upon them. The question that is now troubling us is how we are to take care of our production. We are fairly overwhelmed with prosperity. It is a unique situation.

Virginia Victuals.

The Midland Virginian says:

"The real estate men are looking forward to the Jamestown Exposition to bring in many buyers. Our people will live so near this market should be soiling after the chickens, eggs, lambs, hams, butter and fruits to meet the great demand from the influx of visitors."

The Times-Dispatch has already given this hint to the farmers of Virginia. The State will have thousands and tens of thousands of visitors this year, and they must be fed. Virginia farmers should supply the stuff. It will be profitable to them and a credit to the State. "This is our exhibition year, and we want the visitors to see for themselves what delicious foodstuffs we produce in Virginia. Let the farmers take the hint and prepare for market fresh meats and ham, vegetables and fruits, to say nothing of homemade flour and corn meal. It is a rare opportunity and it should be improved."

The Vindication of Wirz.

The Times-Dispatch has taken a deep interest in the proposal to erect a monument to Captain Henry Wirz, commander of Andersonville prison.

We have shown from the record that he was innocent of the infamous charges

brought against him, and that he was murdered to gratify the spite of his enemies.

We now learn from the New Orleans Times-Democrat that a former enemy of the executed soldier, and a prisoner at Andersonville under Wirz's administration, intends to write what he knows of Wirz as a prisoner keeper, and to do such justice as he may to the memory of the man. He declares that Wirz did his best with the scant means at his command to alleviate the sufferings of the troops confined in that prison. He denies that Wirz ever refused reasonable requests made by prisoners, if in his power to comply.

Wirz does not need any vindication, for the record is sufficient; but it is gratifying to know that at least one Northern man has the courage and the righteousness to come forward even at this late day in defense of a brave soldier who was so cruelly slandered and slain.

Miss Claire Hanna and H. M. Hanna, Jr., niece and nephew, respectively, of the late Senator Marcus A. Hanna, recently left Cleveland, O., for Thomasville, Ga., where they will be married. Their reason for going to Georgia for their nuptials is that under the laws of Ohio first cousins may not marry in that State. They might have found accommodation in Virginia. Our law provides that no man shall marry his mother, grandmother, stepmother, sister, daughter, granddaughter, half-sister, aunt, son's widow, wife's daughter, or her granddaughter, or stepdaughter, brother's daughter, or sister's daughter. But there is no bar in our statutes to the marriage of cousins.

The Montgomery Advertiser puts us to this question:

"How about the South framing the platform and naming the candidate from among her own strong Democratic statesmen?"

We decline to be interviewed.

Writing of the unmarried woman, a lady in Harper's Bazar says: "But the married man, off the domestic hearth, remains to her as great a bugaboo as the 'Bony' with whom the English children before Waterloo were frightened." Or as the Bond with whom the Gould children are frightened to this day.

The London Graphic demonstrates that champagne poured into a damp glass will go flat at once. Make your butter understand that he will lose his place if he ever fails to give you a dry one.

Marse Henry Watterson is responsible for the apothegm that "we grow old when we stop playing." But isn't it equally true, Colonel, that we go broke unless we do?

A verse-loving judge in New York is said to read his own poetry to the prisoners he sentences. We take it for granted that he lightens the sentence a bit on account.

Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish says that any woman can dress on \$5,000 a year. Women who are now doing it on \$50 would be interested to have the lady to tell them how.

The real trouble about burglar-proof safes is that nobody knows until afterwards just who the burglar was going to be. And then he is somewhere in Canada.

Mrs. Gertrude Atherton has told the editor of the London Times, by letter, to go to the devil. It is the latest copy of public notice. But there is another side to the story. Mr. Corey and Miss Gilman are advertised the world over.

There are \$1,000,000,000 worth of diamonds in this country. And this does not include the large numbers of costly gems annually lost by press agents.

Beef is so dear in many parts of Germany that the people are eating horses, which also is playing right into the hands of the whizz-wagon makers.

J. S. Williams is quoted as saying that the White House is too damp a place for him to live in. Mr. Fairbanks, for his part, is willing to take a chance.

It is worth nothing, however, that that warm endorsement of plum pudding comes from a journal devoted to the interests of the medical profession.

The Shah's enfeebled condition is doubtless due to the fact that the people rarely took his constitution away from him.

The block signal system, operated by cheap and incompetent help, is a wretched failure. But that, to be fair, is its only fault.

A building forty-eight stories high presents certain difficulties from the standpoint of the elevator-boy profession.

One good thing about going on the water wagon, is that it is so easy to come off again.

January is distinctly infringing on June's copyright.

Now, or never, come Imperfect days.

Religious Liberty.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir—As I have been somewhat, so far as the American Revolution was concerned, upon the contention which has been going on in your columns between the Rev. E. Y. Mullins, of Louisville, Ky., and a Presbyterian gentleman, signing himself "Editor," I will say that the religious freedom of the United States is a subject which has been discussed in your columns for many years, and that the Declaration of American Independence was as follows: including Mr. Jefferson, who at that time was a vestryman of a parish in Albemarle, thirty-four of them were Episcopalian; thirteen were Congregationalists; six were Presbyterians; one was a Baptist; one a Dutch Reformed; one a Quaker, and one a Roman Catholic. In addition, I will also add that it is well known that Washington was an Episcopalian. I merely mention these facts to throw some light on the subject.

Richmond, Va.

Words of Approval.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir—I beg to congratulate you on your recent success in defeating the proposed amendment permitting J. S. Forbes & Company to operate a slaughter-house in the heart of the city. The proposed amendment did, the side of right and justice, your argument in opposition to such an ordinance was invincible, and your fight a gallant one, affording additional proof that The Times-Dispatch may at all times and under all circumstances be relied on as a faithful and courageous champion of the city's rights and a strong advocate of its best interests, regardless of whom it may antagonize.

WM. H. P.

In Michigan Society.

A delightful tea social was given Friday evening at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Mansell, our talented harness maker, and a pleasant evening was had.

Rhymes for To-Day

Americanizing the Senate.

THE SENATE, certes, should contain
 The ancient names of patriots,
 Cognomina that make it plain
 That they were not polyglots.
 That's why I welcome in my rhyme
 The home-grown Solon, Guggenheim.

I wish that every Senate man
 Who shares the legislative toil
 Might be a true American,
 Independent to our soil,
 And that the majority never held
 One name phonetically spelled.

I wish the list were all made up
 Of native names like Weyerhaeuser,
 Like U. S. Justice Grosscup,
 And, I wish, like Oscar Straus,
 And, and, I'd like to give a niche
 To one ignominy petronovitch.

And I would like a Kapriles,
 A Pichonnet,
 A Yon Yon Yonson, if you please,
 A Wun Lung Lee and Donohue,
 Whence native names should therewith
 Exclude all foreign names like Smith.

But there, my hopes are too sublime—
 I'll have to check them for a span:
 The Senate's large; it takes some time
 To make it all American.
 Meantime, I welcome in my rhyme
 The fine old name of Guggenheim.

"Pronounced 'Rocky-ky-nee,' with
 The accent on all the syllables."
 H. S. H.

MERELY JOKING.

The Kind.

"Does the office ever seek the man?" "Occasionally," answered Senator Borah. "But when it does you will usually find that the salary attached to it is only nominal."—Washington Star.

His Unsociality.

Then Borah's first came into the neighborhood he was quite content, but now he wants to keep everybody at a distance. "Naturally," everybody is a creditor of his now."—Philadelphia Press.

Going Down.

"Why are you laughing, father?" asked the daughter. "I'm laughing," chuckled the old man, "because your mother is going down again." "But you generally rave when you hear it going," "Yes, but this time it is going down," "I'll toss it out of the window."—Chicago News.

After the Plutocrats.

First Millionaire: "Hard lines these days." Second Millionaire: "Yes, our relatives are waiting for us to die to get our money, and the rest of the world doesn't want to wait that long."—New York Sun.

Had There Been Others.

"Your check is so nice and smooth—it doesn't scratch a bit," the fair maid whispered, nestling her cheek against the banker's. "It is a look of cold suspicion dawning in his eyes."—American Spectator.

Unusual.

"Yes, he has one claim to fame." "What's that?" "He was a member of a grand jury once when he indicted the Standard Oil Company."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

POINTS FROM PARAGRAPHERS.

It is an inevitable inference that the loot would have been larger if Congress had yielded to the importunities of the politicians who wanted a government loan of millions for San Francisco.—Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

Further paragrapher awaits the legal profession. "Young Mr. Thaw's family will spend half a million dollars to show that the episode at Madison Square Garden was merely a mistake of judgment."—Indianapolis News.

What the railroads need is fewer operators in Wall Street and better ones at the telegraph stations.—Atlanta Journal.

Zion City is headed for the Bankruptcy Court—a case of prophet and loss.—Washington Herald.

President Roosevelt is a thorough American, yet he can't help having a slight respect for some of the things that Kaiser Wilhelm did to the Boers.—Cleveland Leader.

The costliness of 1900 to the railroads of the country is due to the results of legislation which has been passed by Congress since the Spencer and Cassel.—New York Mail.

It seems to be a hard heat between President Castro and the sign of Persia as to which can die the longest without falling into the hands of the undertaker.—Kansas City Journal.

COMMENT OF VIRGINIA EDITORS.

Changing Railroad Schedules.

There should be State law not allowing a railroad to change its schedule without the consent of the State Commission, has been the subject of a bill introduced in the House of Delegates. It is a question of public safety and of the welfare of the people, and it is a question of the right of the State to regulate the railroads.

Good Roads Argument.

This paper is extremely glad to note that there are gentlemen in this city and in Spotsylvania county who are sincerely interested in the good roads question to take the matter up and state it in the county with vigor and in view of the fact that the matter is near here.—Fredericksburg Free Laborer.

The Spitting Dager.

Tuberculosis is a disease. The germs do not thrive in sunlight and the air, nor do they thrive in the open air. Therefore, it is a question of public safety and of the welfare of the people, and it is a question of the right of the State to regulate the railroads.

The Boiling Pot.

The pot boiling to boil at Williamsburg over the local public school, \$12,000 of the State's money has been spent or practically thrown in a fire in an effort to right the wrong of the public school. It is a question of public safety and of the welfare of the people, and it is a question of the right of the State to regulate the railroads.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

The eggs of Algerian locust yield a rich oil, which burns.

The average of persons arrested in New York city in 1906 was twenty-three years.

New York is now thought of as a manufacturing city. It has 6,221 manufacturing establishments.

The Southern Railway Railroad Company has bought in San Antonio a lot on which it has built an \$800,000 railroad hospital.

Teachers' salaries in the New York public schools vary from a minimum of \$800 annually to the maximum of \$4,400.

Five women were chosen as county treasurers in Idaho. We have seen and seventeen women county superintendents of schools.

William M. Carr, the new American Minister to Mexico, was in New York City last night. He is a native of New York and was born in 1862.

With Russian troops concealed in the hollow walls of the city, the Austro-Hungarian army has been forced to cross the Russian frontier near Cracow.

WHAT FRANCE HAS DONE

Political Alliance with the Pope or Recognition in an Official Way the Doctrine of His Temporal Sovereignty. Under this Convention, France has abolished the concordat between the Pope and the State.

In doing this has France violated an international obligation? It is not difficult to answer this question both from the standpoint of ethics and of international law. The concordat was an agreement made between Napoleon I. and the Pope in 1801, with reference to the status of the Catholic Church in France. There is not a clause in it that indicates that it was in the nature of a perpetual contract. Indeed, there is a clause which indicates the contrary. It was provided that if at any time the successor of the First Consul should not be a Catholic, there should be a new agreement.

In refusing to regard the Pope any longer as a foreign potentate, France has taken a step which Garibaldi and Victor Emmanuel took for Italy years ago, in spite of the fact that the Pope has not recognized the existence of the Pope as a sovereign was not even recognized. France may well claim that it could not recognize the sovereignty of the Pope, because every vestige of it is gone.

Has France repudiated a national debt? Upon the assumption that the agreement to pay salaries in the concordat was to be perpetual. The article of the concordat reads: "The government assures a proper salary to the bishops and pastors whose dioceses may be in the hands of the Catholic Church." There was no contract as to how much should be paid or how long.

It has been said that France has actually done what the State of New York would do if it should seize and hold the property of the Catholic Church. The State of New York has not done this. The new law the ownership of any buildings or churches which it has not owned for more than a hundred years under the concordat. In that document the Pope formally renounced on behalf of the church the title to the property acquired by the action in the French Revolution.

For instance, the ancient churches, such as Notre Dame and the Oratoire, the former a Catholic and the latter a Protestant house of worship, belong to the French government. For a hundred years France has allowed these religious bodies to use them as churches. The State has not done this. The new law the ownership of any buildings or churches which it has not owned for more than a hundred years under the concordat. In that document the Pope formally renounced on behalf of the church the title to the property acquired by the action in the French Revolution.

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